

The Obama administration has made no secret of its efforts to affect change in America. From higher taxes on workers and business, to greater government intrusion into personal healthcare decisions, there has been plenty of evidence the White House wants to grow the size and reach of government at a time when many Americans believe the same bloated federal bureaucracy is hindering economic growth. One area where the administration has been quietly ramping up government control is in increased regulations on businesses.

The first year of the Obama administration was largely focused on its health care and stimulus bills. Both were steamrolled through Congress despite the near unanimous opposition of conservatives and both remain unpopular with a majority of the public. Getting less attention is the president's Cap and Trade energy legislation, which was also pushed in 2009. It passed the Democrat-led House with almost total Republican opposition but was stopped in the Senate.

Cap and Trade, which would have subjected America's energy producers to costly new emissions controls, raising energy costs for everyone, is not dead. Far from it, the controversial program lives on through proposed air quality regulations imposed by the Obama administration through the EPA. It is clear, what the president cannot pass through Congress, he will implement through Executive Branch regulation.

In early September during his address to a joint session of Congress to propose his jobs program, President Obama admitted that the kudzu-like growth of government regulations on business serves to dampen job creation, and he even suggested that he would be willing to work with Congress to review such actions. But in the following weeks there has been little evidence that he was serious.

While largely unseen by the public, federal regulations do have an impact on jobs. A report released by the U.S. Small Business Administration in September 2010 notes that federal regulatory costs to businesses total \$1.75 trillion each year. Small businesses, in particular, bear a disproportionate share of these costs, averaging over \$10,000 for each employee. Here along the Gulf Coast, we have recently experienced the direct impact of government overreaching in the oil production industry. The administration's de facto moratorium on new oil drilling has cost the region tens of thousands of jobs.

To be sure, the president is not alone in pushing government rule making with negative

consequences on the public. One legacy of the previous Democrat Congress is the increased banking fees many Americans now face with the implementation of regulations from the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009, which I also opposed. This financial regulatory bill has effectively eliminated free checking accounts for many and increased monthly service fees. Last week, Bank of America – the country's largest bank – announced it would begin charging customers a \$5 a month debit card fee to recover costs formerly covered by the interchange fees Dodd-Frank limited.

Let me be clear, however, to point out that federal regulations do have their place in ensuring the safety of both workers and consumers. Federal laws have contributed greatly to maintaining our clean air and water as well as the safety of our transportation system, our food and consumer products, to name but a few. But for all the good that a responsible government provides through reasonable oversight, overzealous regulation can stifle our economy and contribute to a reduced quality of life for Americans.

This is why the Republican House is promoting a program to rein in out-of-control federal regulations that strangle job creation. Last week, the House passed the Transparency in Regulatory Analysis on Impacts on the Nation (TRAIN) Act. If enacted into law, it would prevent the administration from imposing some of its most controversial new EPA rules, which further threaten jobs creation and the economy. It would also force the administration to review the impact of new regulations before they are applied.

In the coming weeks, the House is also scheduled to vote on measures to check the growth of federal regulation, including a bill requiring an up or down vote in Congress on every major regulatory program before it is imposed. Currently, federal regulations are foisted on the country largely without the approval of lawmakers.

With the nation struggling though the effects of a prolonged recession, Washington can best help by getting out of the way of our jobs creators. Hiring hundreds of new bureaucrats to impose more regulations on business is exactly the wrong approach to jumpstarting the economy. It's time for the president to join the House in clearing a path for job growth.

My staff and I work for you. If we can ever be of service, do not hesitate to call my office toll free at 1-800-288-8721.

For release October 3, 2011